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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Jackson and Harris

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DEC 13 2001

Serial No.: 09/388,090

Group Art Unit: 1641

Filed: August 31, 1999

Examiner: Devi, S.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

For: *NEISSERIA* SPP. POLYPEPTIDE,
NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCE AND
USES THEREOF

Attorney Docket No.: 7969-082-999

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 WITH AMENDMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box AF
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Final Office Action dated May 17, 2001, please enter the amendments below and consider the following remarks intended to put all the pending claims into form for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that, since the rejections are newly made, the following remarks and amendments to respond to the same would not have been submitted previously. Hence, reconsideration and entry of the following amendments is earnestly requested. Submitted herewith are (1) Exhibit 1, Parts A-D and (2) Exhibit 2, Parts A and B. Exhibit 1, Part A presents the results of a BLASTP comparison of the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No. 2 of Gilbert and the amino acid sequence of Deg P of *E. coli*; Exhibit 1, Part B presents the results of a BLAST comparison of the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No. 4 of Gilbert and the amino acid sequence of Deg P of *E. coli*; Exhibit 1, Part C presents the results of BLAST search of the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No. 1 of Gilbert to identify a serine

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protease motif; and Exhibit 1, Part D presents the results of a BLAST search of the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No. 3 of Gilbert to identify a serine protease motif. Exhibit 2, Part A presents the results of a BLAST comparison of the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the presently claimed novel *Neisseria* nucleic acid of claim 37 and the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid encoding the Deg P polypeptide of *E. coli*; Exhibit 2, Part B presents the results of a BLAST comparison of the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the presently claimed novel *Neisseria* nucleic acid of claim 55 and the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid encoding the Deg P polypeptide of *E. coli* of the presently claimed nucleic acid to identify a serine protease motif. Appendix A, a "marked-up" version of the paragraphs of the specification as amended; Appendix B, a "marked-up" version of the amended claims and Appendix C, a "clean" copy of the claims which will be pending upon entry of the present amendment are attached. Also submitted herewith is a Petition for an Extension of Time for three months from August 17, 2001 to and including November 17, 2001, together with a Notice of Appeal together with the necessary fee. Charge Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150 for any required fees.